





**BU**  
**W. H. HAY**

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SECOND EDITION  
RUSSIAN ACTIVITY IN  
ASIA.

## VICTORIAN PATRIOTIC FUND.

**MELBOURNE, Monday.**  
A largely attended public meeting convened by the Mayor of Melbourne, was held in the Town Hall to-night with the object of raising the active sympathy of the public in connection with the war in South Africa. The meeting showed that the patriotic sentiment of the various speakers. The speakers included the Premier (Mr. McEwen) who said that a subscription of the kind had never before been organized in Victoria. He said that the Government was not prepared to make any concession to the Boers, and that the only way to secure peace was to continue the war. The meeting was held in the Town Hall, and was attended by a large number of people. The speakers included the Mayor, the Premier, and several other prominent men. The meeting was held in the Town Hall, and was attended by a large number of people. The speakers included the Mayor, the Premier, and several other prominent men.

## RAINS IN QUEENSLAND.

**BRISBANE, Monday.**  
From telegrams received to-night it is learned that a heavy rain has fallen at various places in Queensland, notably at Warrego and Charleville. The rain has been much needed in the district, and has done much to relieve the drought. The rain has been much needed in the district, and has done much to relieve the drought. The rain has been much needed in the district, and has done much to relieve the drought.

## THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

**MARVELLOUS PROSPERITY.**  
LONDON, Jan. 7.  
The annual reports of commercial organizations for the last 12 months show a marvellous prosperity in all branches of trade of the British Empire.

## COLLISION IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.

**LONDON, Jan. 7.**  
The R.M.S. Ormuz collided with the steamer Glasgow in the English Channel. The Glasgow foundered, her crew being saved.

## CHINA.

**THE ATTACK ON A MISSION STATION.**  
LONDON, Jan. 7.  
The Chinese Government has degraded the officials at Pingyin, in the province of Shantung, Northern China, where a band of rebel Chinese known as "boxers" had descended upon the mission station and raided the dwellings of the Rev. Mr. Brooks, the agent of the Church Missionary Society at Pingyin.

## THE WEATHER.

**THE MONSOONAL CHANGE BRINGS A GENERAL RAINFALL.**  
When yesterday morning the full telegraphic weather news was made, a qualifying conclusion was reached that the monsoonal pressure from the Gulf of Persia, and from the direction of Port Darwin in the far north of the continent, had covered the country with a light rainfall. It fell all over the country, and was much needed. The rain was much needed in the district, and has done much to relieve the drought.

## THE COAST STORM.

**UP TO 2 IN. FALL WITHIN A FEW MILES OF THE TOWN.**  
At Mt. Murray, on the coast, a heavy rain fell on Saturday afternoon, damaging about 200 acres of the line and preventing the mail from being carried. A violent rain fell on Saturday night, and the line has been repaired sufficiently to allow trains to pass.

## BOURKE, Monday.

Although the rainfall has been very heavy, the rain has been much needed in the district, and has done much to relieve the drought. The rain has been much needed in the district, and has done much to relieve the drought.

## CARGO, Monday.

Thunderstorms fell all yesterday and to-day. Only 25 points were registered here. There was a heavy rain fall through the district, and the result was that there was much overflow of the residence in the low-lying parts and about some of the local business, but the actual damage was not considerable. To-day steady rain fell.

## LITTON, Monday.

A violent rainstorm occurred here yesterday evening. The rain fell in about 20 points, with the result that there was much overflow of the residence in the low-lying parts and about some of the local business, but the actual damage was not considerable. To-day steady rain fell.

## MURRUMBidge, Monday.

A heavy rainstorm occurred here yesterday evening. The rain fell in about 20 points, with the result that there was much overflow of the residence in the low-lying parts and about some of the local business, but the actual damage was not considerable. To-day steady rain fell.

## MOSGILE, Monday.

On Saturday and Sunday evening thunderstorms, preceded by heavy duststorms, occurred. Little rain fell.

## NEW ANGLEWOOD, Monday.

Since January 3 there has been a heavy rain, and the result was that there was much overflow of the residence in the low-lying parts and about some of the local business, but the actual damage was not considerable. To-day steady rain fell.

## WALGAT, Monday.

Rain fell again yesterday evening, the total registered at the post-office being more than 20 points. The result was that there was much overflow of the residence in the low-lying parts and about some of the local business, but the actual damage was not considerable. To-day steady rain fell.

## LATE SHIPPING.

**ARRIVAL.**—Arrived: Jan. 8, M.S. Rona, from Melbourne; Jan. 8, M.S. Rona, from Melbourne; Jan. 8, M.S. Rona, from Melbourne.

## THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

## GREAT BATTLE AT LADY-SMITH.

**DESPERATE FIGHTING ON BOTH SIDES.**  
LONDON, Jan. 7.  
It is reported from Mafeking that Lord Edward Cecil (son of the Marquis of Salisbury) was not wounded in the recent sortie but is suffering from fever.

## THE FIERCEST OF THE CAMPAIGN.

**TREMENDOUS FIRE OF MUSKETRY AND FIELD GUNS.**  
LONDON, Jan. 7.  
The Boers have re-occupied Dordrecht, east of Mafeking.

## THE ENEMY REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSS.

**FOUR HUNDRED REPORTED TAKEN PRISONERS.**  
LONDON, Jan. 7.  
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## A BAYONET CHARGE OUTSIDE THE TOWN.

**OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN CAPE COLONY.**  
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## THE FIGHTING NEAR COLESBERG.

**A RUSE BY THE ENEMY.**  
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## SEVENTY BRITISH SOLDIERS CAPTURED.

**Further particulars are to hand of the fighting around Ladysmith.**  
LONDON, Jan. 7.  
The Boers have re-occupied Dordrecht, east of Mafeking.

## THE STEAMER GENERAL RELEASED.

**LONDON, Jan. 8.**  
The German steamer General, which was detained by the British authorities at Aden, while on a voyage to East Africa, it being suspected that she had contraband of war aboard, has been released.

## CARGO OF THE HUNDESRATH.

**LONDON, Jan. 7.**  
It is understood that the cargo of the German steamer Hundesrath, which was recently stopped by the British at Delagoa Bay, included 7000 saddles, which were concealed amongst a quantity of food stuffs.

## THE YEOMANRY BRIGADE.

**ATTEMPT TO LYNCH BOER SPIES.**  
LONDON, Jan. 7.  
During the recruiting of the Yeomanry Regiment for the Boer War, two Boer spies tried to join the ranks. They were discovered and were almost lynched. One man had his jaw fractured and the other his nose broken.

## REINFORCEMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

**THE EIGHTH INFANTRY DIVISION.**  
LONDON, Jan. 7.  
The Eighth Infantry Division of the Army Corps is being mobilized for service in South Africa, and will be ready to embark in a fortnight.

## FOREIGNERS AT PRETORIA.

**LONDON, Jan. 7.**  
The British prisoners at Pretoria are guarded by 300 foreigners, all the burghers being at the front.

## AN INCIDENT IN LORD ROBERTS'S VOYAGE.

**LONDON, Jan. 7.**  
A sentry reported that during Lord Roberts's voyage to Capetown on the Dunottar Castle a man was found acting in a suspicious manner near his cabin. A search showed that the man was in possession of a revolver, and he was thereupon landed at Gibraltar.

## THE WAR FUNDS.

**LONDON, Jan. 7.**  
The War Relief Fund has reached a total of £500,000. The shilling subscription organized by the "Daily Telegraph" totals £100,000.

## THE USE OF ARTILLERY.

**LONDON, Jan. 8.**  
The British generals in South Africa have determined to use artillery to the utmost, and thus demoralize the Boers before they employ the infantry to push home the final attack.

## FIGHTING NEAR COLESBERG.

**RETRAIT OF A BRITISH DETACHMENT.**  
LONDON, Jan. 8.  
Further advice has been received of the fighting near Colesberg on Saturday. Major-General J. D. P. French reports that four companies of the 1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment made a night attack upon the enemy, who held a strong position on a hill in the vicinity of the town.

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## THE SITUATION.

**DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WEST.**  
Following upon the practical expulsion of the Boers from Grijpshoek West, it is satisfactory to have to report that they have obtained a better footing in Bechuanaland to the north. On November 23 last they attacked Kuruman, which is about 75 miles west of the extreme south-western border of the Transvaal; but the effort to capture the town was unsuccessful. A subsequent attempt also resulted in failure, and it was then thought that the siege had been raised. The enemy sounded the British order to retreat just as Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Watson, who was in command, had been wounded.

## SURRENDER OF KURUMAN.

**LONDON, Jan. 8.**  
Some days ago it was announced that the siege of Kuruman in British Bechuanaland had been raised. It is now reported that the Boers re-

surrendered the town, and on Monday they bombarded the town. In the evening the garrison and the police, numbering 120 men, and including seven officers surrendered to the enemy. Fifteen of the British were wounded in the bombardment.

## THE METHOD OF PROCEDURE.

The British general staff is reported as having determined to conduct the campaign hitherto so far as to risk a little life as possible. Brilliant if reckless charges up well-protected hills are to be discarded, and the strength of artillery is to be utilized to the fullest extent before infantry and cavalry are to be sent to difficult positions. This will doubtless prolong the battle, for artillery must be used with consummate accuracy in order to dislodge an enemy from entrenched positions as are constructed nowadays. In the end the British artillery, it is said to predict, will attack the Boers in the front. If the general staff adhere to the policy of depending primarily on the artillery for the demoralization of the enemy, it is not likely there will be any repetition of the kind of fighting which has been so successful in the past.

## OPERATIONS IN NATAL.

Sir Redvers Buller is still reorganizing, and presumably preparing his counter-offensive. He made a demonstration before Colenso on Saturday with all his available troops, and found the Boer entrenchments occupied. He did not know whether he attempted to shell or not, but it is believed that he did not. He made his full discovery himself, something more than an ordinary demonstration appears to have been necessary.

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